The Government is currently giving subsidy on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene under 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme 2002". The subsidy has been extended till 31.03.2010 at the rates as followed from 2004-05 onwards. The current average subsidy rates for domestic LPG are at Rs. 22.58 per cylinder and Re. 0.82 per litre for PDS Kerosene.

(c) based on the dollar depreciation for the period Apr. -Dec 07, under-realization of Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation are estimated to be lower on these sensitive petroleum products by approximately Rs. 11,250 cores, Rs. 389.24 crores and Rs. 1330 crores respectively.

(d) 5% Ethanol is being blended with petrol only. The blending of Ethanol with petrol does not have any significant impact on the import of crude oil.

Defence on oil import

588. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is set to become world's third largest oil importer after USA and China before 2025, according to the International Energy Agency;

(b) whether India is ranked fourth in terms of oil imports, according to the World Energy Outlook 2007 report, in which rapid economic development in China and India would push up the global energy demand;

(c) if so, the other points mentioned in the report; and

(d) the step Government proposes to take to reduce the dependence on oil imports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the Executive Summary of report of IEF titled "World Energy Outlook 2007 : China and India Insights", before 2025, India will overtake Japan to become the world's third largest net importer of oil after United States and China. Yet, India's importance as a major exporter of refined oil products will also grow, assuming the necessary investments are forthcoming. Although recent discoveries are expected to boost gas production, it is projected to peak between 2020 and 2030 and then fall back. A growing share of India's gas needs would therefore be met by imports entirely in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas. The Executive summary, *inter-alia,* mentions following important points:

(i) Economic development in China and India inevitably will push the global energy demand but it will also bring major economic benefits to the rest of the world.

(ii) The world's primary energy needs are projected to grow by 55% between 2005 and 2030 at an average annual rate of 1.8%

(iii) Regarding energy security, the report stated that the rising global energy demand poses real and growing threat to world's energy security. India's and China's growing participation in international trades heightens the importance of their collective efforts to enhance global energy security. How China and India re-

spond to the rising threats to their energy security will also affect rest of the world. Both countries are already taking action.

(d) Various measures are being taken on a continuous basis to reduce the country's dependence on the oil imports, which are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(vii) Construction of Strategic Storage of curde oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations *viz.* Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur, for meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions, natural calamities, etc.

Launching of NELP-VII

589. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Exploration Licensing Policy-VII (NELP-VII) has been launched recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the NELP-VII;

(c) the number of oil and gas blocks offered under NELP-VII;

(d) whether there are any oil or gas blocks proposed for offer under NELP-VII;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the revenue that Government is expecting to generate through bidding of the above oil and gas blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has launched New Exploration Licensing Policy-VII on 13th December, 2007 with bid closing on 11th April, 2008.

(b) Salient features of NELP-VII are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) 57 exploration blocks (29 onland, 9 shallow water and 19 deep water blocks) are on offer under 7th round of New Exploration Licensing Policy NELP-VII. The details of blocks offered are given in Statement II (*See* below).

(f) Bidding company is required to pay tender fee by the way of purchase of the requisite Data Package of the block to be bid. The revenue to the Government would accrue through payment of royalty and profit petroleum share offered by the contractor in the bid. However, the revenue would be contingent upon actual production of oil and gas after exploratory phase if discovery is made.